

INTRODUCTION

It is hard to believe that we are already half way through 2010 and our biggest fundraiser of the year, Africa Alive, is just around the corner! We have been working very hard on a number of exciting things to help grow Kidlinks and enhance the level of support we can provide to our partners in South Africa. As always, if you are interested to get involved in any aspect of Kidlinks, whether it be grant writing, event planning, putting up posters, etc or if you have a new idea, please contact us!

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 7 – Africa Alive

August 21 – Kidlinks booth at Africa Fest – Warner Park

August 28-29 – Bicycle, Bed and Breakfast



Highlight:

Africa Alive

August 7, 2010 • 2 – 7 pm

Location: Capital Brewery, Terrace Ave, Middleton

Kidlinks World, Inc. is very proud to be hosting the 5th annual Africa Alive, which will be held at Capital Brewery in Middleton. Africa Alive provides entertainment and fun for the



Little Dancers enjoying Atimevu

whole family, so come be part of the excitement on August 7!

Africa Alive 2010 entertainment will include: WADOMA West African Dance, Tani Diakite and Tony Castaneda, Andy Ewin, African drumming and Spoken Word Poetry.

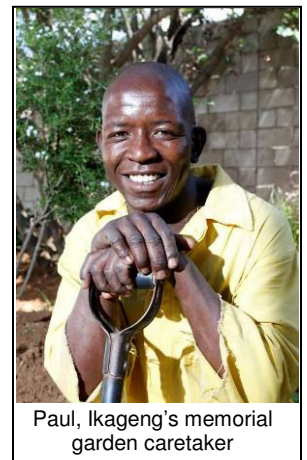


WADOMA getting the crowd on their feet

The event will highlight activities for children with a Children's Costume Contest, drumming and crafts! Children are encouraged

to come in costume, but if you don't have a costume or you forget, there will be costumes at Africa Alive! Additionally, we'll have great fun with juggling, brewery tours, face painting and both live and silent auctions! There is a suggested donation of \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 16. So, spread the word, get your friends and family together and join us for the biggest Africa Alive yet!

And don't forget, we need your help! This is our most successful event because of all of you who get involved to make it happen! If you would like to help with planning Africa Alive or make a donation for the auctions or sponsor the event, please contact Cristianne, cawtravels@yahoo.com, 658-1772 or Liza, liza.lightfoot@gmail.com, 209-3398.



Paul, Ikageng's memorial garden caretaker



NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Cristianne Wendler recently returned from a visit to South Africa where she was able to visit some of our projects. Here is a bit about her visit...

As always, it was wonderful to be back in South Africa, especially at such a festive time, as final preparations were being made for the South African World Cup and spirits were very high. It was uplifting to see and feel the South African pride and nationalism that the World Cup has brought out in the country.

This excitement was no different at some of our projects, for when I visited Ikageng Itireleng AIDS Ministry, many of the staff and children were asking me about soccer and who I would be cheering for. I was very pleased to see how great Ikageng is doing. The memorial garden that we built two years ago is looking fantastic, with most of the original plantings still flourishing, which is thanks to our caretaker, Paul, who takes great pride in "his" garden! While I was there I was pleased to see that

there were a number of children studying on the picnic tables that we provided and I noticed they had been used for more than one art project!



Also, very exciting, Ikageng has helped form income-generating, community groups that do sewing, shoe making and beading. The goal is that the groups will make enough money to cover the needed supplies, salaries for the artists and then, the extra money would go to Ikageng. I was very excited about this prospect and I'm currently working with one of the staff members to see if we can help make this a success. I also hope that in the near future, we'll be able to bring some of their products back to the US for all of you to see. While I was at Ikageng, I also visited the plot of land just outside of Soweto, which Kidlinks is going to be developing into a food garden. Wow, by far this is going to be our largest

food garden and we've definitely got our work cut out for us, but the outcome is going to be awesome! When the garden is fully planted, it should produce enough food to feed all of the children at Ikageng and for some of those children, it will be the first fresh produce they've ever had!

I was also fortunate enough to visit Sigiya Sonke and Ratang Bana in Alex, although I would have loved to spend more time at each of these projects. The food garden that we built last year at Sigiya



Sonke is looking fantastic! The garden was lush and has been producing lots of vegetables, so all of the families at Sigiya Sonke are receiving fresh produce. The garden has actually reached a point where its producing more food than the Sigiya Sonke families can eat, so now Ratang Bana will also be receiving produce from the garden!

I greatly enjoyed my visit to Ratang Bana, but I was also saddened by my visit, simply because they are doing so much with so little and the challenges are great. Ratang Bana is taking in more AIDS orphans every week; Ingrid, the founder and mother of Ratang Bana, is HIV-positive and fighting cancer; and new challenges arise very day as they're fighting to keep a growing number of children safe, fed and in school. But we can help them and I had a wonderful discussion with Ingrid of how Kidlinks can help. So, we'll hopefully be directly more support and launching some new programs for Ratang Bana very soon.

I always leave South Africa with a bit of a heavy heart, but it helps coming back to Kidlinks and all of you, knowing that we're making a difference in the lives of some amazing children! Thank you for your support; please never doubt how important it is.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

As some of you know, we have formed the Education and Outreach working group to expand Kidlinks' reach and impact in the Madison area. This includes speaking at schools, presenting to community groups, booking presentations, working on fundraising and projects with students, working with teachers, etc. We have some really motivated people in this group and a lot of great ideas, so if you would like to be involved with this group, please contact Cristianne, cawtravels@yahoo.com or 658-1772.

FASHION SHOW

As most of you know, we had to cancel the *Faces of Style* Fashion Show back in May due to difficult circumstances. We would like to apologize for this, as many of you were excited about this event, as were we. We hope that this is an event we can pursue in the future and we would be appreciative of anyone who would like to help make that happen. We also wanted to extend a huge thank you to those of you who put in your time, effort and ideas towards this event.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- Attend the Africa Alive planning meeting tonight, July 7th at 22 Corry Street at 6:30pm
- Attend an event planning social
- Volunteer at an event and/or help spread the word
- Make a donation
- Find sponsors and donors for upcoming events

There are many ways to get involved and make a difference, so please contact us if you're interested in learning more and/or if you have new ideas.

CONTACT DETAILS

www.kidlinksworld.org

contact@kidlinksworld.org

608-658-1171

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If you would like to make a donation, you can mail a check or visit our website and click on 'Give'.